

Artificial Turf Requirements in PBC Local Governments

Local Government	Artificial Turf Allowed Yes/No	Regulations
Boca Raton	Yes, Limited to residential	Historically permitted in residential front, side, and rear yards subject to drainage review.
Boynton Beach	Yes, treated as impermeable surface	For Residential, artificial turf is allowed in back yards and treated as impermeable/paving, which has setback requirements. No specific regulations have been adopted. It is treated as pavement
Delray Beach	Yes, currently very limited New LDR Amendment in Process	<p>Artificial turf is currently permitted in sidewalk cafes through the City’s sidewalk café permitting process. LDR Section 6.3.3(f)(12): (12) The use of carpeting, artificial turf, or other services of any kind must be approved as a part of the Sidewalk Café application.</p> <p>Delray Beach staff is currently working on finalizing an ordinance to allow artificial turf as hardscape surface with performance standards. The draft ordinance was reviewed by the City’s Planning and Zoning Board on March 20, 2023 to provide feedback to staff. In the draft ordinance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Artificial turf is considered hardscape, and must be designed and permitted with a minimum permeability of 30 inches per hour per square yard. Artificial turf cannot be used within permanent drainage features (ponds, swales, etc.). • Artificial turf may be used in combination with living plants as part of a landscape design, but artificial turf shall not by itself constitute landscaping. No more than 15 percent of the lot area remaining after building coverage, open space, and hardscaping are subtracted from the total lot area may be comprised of artificial turf.
Greenacres	No	Not permitted, staff is reviewing issue
Jupiter	No	Definition of Turf: means continuous plant coverage consisting of grass species suited to growth. Jupiter staff is beginning to research and draft regulations to potentially allow artificial turf as an impervious surface (e.g. patio area). Draft regulations are tentatively scheduled to go to public hearing sometime in Winter 2023/2024.
Lantana	Yes	Sec. 10.5-23(e) provides performance standards, but no limitation on the application of the material. Sites have to comply with all landscaping requirements, but may also utilize artificial turf.

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Palm Beach County	Yes	<p>ULDC. Article 7 Section 7 E</p> <p>Artificial turf may be installed in the interior, terminal, or divider medium of a bull pen vehicle storage area. The applicant shall receive product approval from the Zoning Director, prior to indicating in the Landscape Plan or installation. Article 7 Section 7 E</p> <p>No artificial plants or vegetation shall be used to meet any standard of this article. Chapter E section 6</p> <p>Artificial turf has also been permitted on athletic fields in recent approvals.</p>
Palm Beach Gardens	Yes Allowed in limited areas. Code also has performance standards	<p>Sec. 78-321. - Minimum landscape and hardscape standards:</p> <p>(c) Artificial turf. Up to one hundred (100) percent of the recreational use (e.g., playground, athletic field) of artificial turf shall be permitted to count toward open space requirements. Artificial turf shall consist of green lifelike individual blades of grass that emulates natural turf. The installation of artificial turf shall not restrict or compromise the health or maintenance of natural vegetation required by any other section of this Code. The location of artificial turf shall be limited to the following:</p> <p>(1) In residential lots, the quantity of artificial turf is restricted by the maximum percentage of impervious surface for the subject property permitted within the applicable zoning district.</p> <p>(2) Artificial turf is not permitted within required landscape buffers, parkways, or preserve areas.</p> <p>Sec. 78-322. - Hardscape and nonliving landscape materials installation requirements:</p> <p>(f) Artificial turf. Artificial turf shall be designed for the intended use and meet the appropriate industry standards for installation, drainage, and aesthetics. Artificial turf shall resemble a natural turf/sod/grass look at all times. Artificial turf shall be visually level, with the grain pointing in a single direction. The improper maintenance or disrepair of artificial turf shall be a violation of the city's Code, which may include, but not be limited to, unanchored areas, water pooling, and/or unsightly or unclean areas.</p>
Palm Springs	No	Not permitted
Wellington	Yes, Allowed in limited areas. Code also has performance standards	<p>Chapter 8, Section 7.8.1</p> <p>K. The limited use of artificial/synthetic turf, grass, sod, lawn, etc., is allowed per the following standards:</p> <p>1.The use of artificial turf is limited to the following uses:</p> <p>a. Residential properties: Allowed in the rear and side yard areas if not visible from the right-of-way. Rear and side yard areas where artificial turf is visible from the right-of-way shall be screened from view by continuous opaque fencing or hedge material with a minimum height of five feet. Artificial turf shall be prohibited in front yards, except for the limited use as a decorative grid design with maximum four-inch wide strip used in conjunction with approved pavement materials for patio, walkway and driveway as approved with a building permit for the improvement.</p> <p>....Continued on next page...</p>

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Wellington* *Continued from previous page	Yes, Allowed in limited areas. Code also has performance standards	b. Residential common areas: Allowed in areas designated as recreation or amenity areas on the approved site plan. c. Non-residential: i. Commercial: Allowed in areas that are not required to meet the minimum landscape requirements and shall be designated on the approved site plan. Artificial turf shall be prohibited in designated landscape buffers, areas adjacent to, or visible from, any rights-of-way, drainage and swale areas, lake/canal bank, or other areas within the site that are not required to meet the intent of the landscape requirements as determined during the site plan review process. ii. Recreational areas: Allowed for athletic/activity fields, as designated on an approved site plan. All athletic/activity fields shall be designed to meet the industry standards for the intended use.
West Palm Beach	Yes, Allowed in limited areas. Code also has performance standards	Sec. 94-451. - Artificial turf. (a) The use and location of artificial turf shall be limited to the following: (1) The construction of non-city-owned athletic fields and playgrounds associated with a non-city-owned community center, park, school, or university; (2) As part of the construction of any nonresidential development; (3) On roof top terraces; (4) On residential lots in the rear setback and side setback; or (5) In multifamily residential developments as part of a recreation or amenity area.